

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 IO-03

SP-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-01 /050 W

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R 061457Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1127

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTRYE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0032

LIMDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF, UK, ZA

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN - VORSTER TALKS

1. UK HICOM MILES TOLD US THAT THREE-HOUR CALLAGHAN-VORSTER TALKS IN PORT ELIZABETH HAD BEEN FRIENDLY AND GONE AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES. TALKS HAD REVEALED DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION BETWEEN ZAMBIANS AND SOUTH AFRICANS ON ROLE BRITISH SHOULD PLAY. WHEREAS ZAMBIANS ARE URGING HMG TO CALL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, VORSTER BELIEVES THAT BRITISH SHOULD NOT INTERVENE AT THIS POINT BUT ALLOW BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIANS SOME TIME TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH EACH OTHER. VORSTER DID NOT RULE OUT BRITISH-CHAired CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AT LATER DATE IF BOTH RHODESIAN SIDES DESIRE IT BUT FELT THAT FOR MEANTIME RHODESIANS SHOULD BE TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES WITHOUT OUTSIDE PRESENCE. MILES SAID THAT CALLAGHAN HAS COMMUNICATED WITH ZAMBIAN FONMIN MWAANGA WHO NOW UNDER-  
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STANDS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S PETITION AND THAT OF VORSTER ARE NOT

SO CLOSE AS ZAMBIANS APPARENTLY THOUGHT THEY WERE.

2. MILES SAID THAT INASMUCH AS ZAMBIANS ARE CONTINUING TO URGE UK TO CALL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, BRITISH WILL NOW HAVE TO REVIEW SITUATION BEFORE DETERMINING WHAT THEIR NEXT STEP CAN BE.

3. DESPITE THIS DEVELOPMENT, ZAMBIAN PRESS TODAY CARRIED (ALTHOUGH WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT) REUTERS DESPATCHES WHICH ALLEGE THAT CALLAGHAN WILL SOON ANNOUNCE HIS WILLINGNESS TO CALL ACONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND THAT HE IS IN TANZANIA TO DISCUSS WITH NYERERE AND MALECELA INTER ALIA THE TIMING AND STAGING FOR SUCH CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM WHAT MILES TOLD US, CALLAGHAN - VORSTER TALKS HAVE NOT BROUGHT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ANY CLOSER TO REALIZATION. BRITISH HAVE BEEN SAYING TO US THAT THEY CONSIDER

ZAMBIANS ARE BEING TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR EARLY CONVENTIION OF SUCCESSFUL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND IT NOW APPEARS EVIDENT THAT ZAMBIANS HAVE MISJUDGED VORSTER'S READINESS TO PRESS SMITH AGAINST HIS WILL INTO ATTENDING SUCH TALKS. WHILE ZAMBIANS NOW KNOW THEY HAVE NEED TO CLARIFY FURTHER SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION ON THE STEPS TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN RHODESIA, THEY MAY ALSO FEEL THEY MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP UP PRESSURE ON UK TO CALL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ANYWAY. ZAMBIANS PROBABLY CONSIDER THAT IF BRITISH DELAY CALLING CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, SMITH WILL CONTINUE TO EVADE ENTERING INTO MEANINGFUL TALKS WITH ANC AND PRESENT MOMENTUM TOWARD CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD SLACKEN. THIS IN TURN WOULD LIKELY LEAD TO RESUMPTION BY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF ARMED STRUGGLE INSIDE RHODESIA AND BREAKDOWN OF ZAMBIAN HOPES FOR EARLY PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LUSAKA00032  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750005-1084  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALLAGHAN - VORSTER TALKS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, RH, SF, UK, ZA, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006